

MAR 17 1976

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Herna Hurd, Project Administrator  
New Castle County  
Area-wide Waste Treatment Management  
Program  
Peddler's Village  
Newark, Delaware 19702

Re: Llangollen Landfill, New Castle  
County, Delaware

Dear Ms. Hurd:

The salient fact about the Llangollen landfill is the interdisciplinary nature of its problem and its solution. In contrast to the seriousness of the problem is the lack of research available to solve it, due to the multiplicity of programs that each deal in part, but not totally, with the problem.

Specific programs which we have investigated as possible sources of money for action are:

- Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
- Solid Waste (SLWA)
- Office of Research and Development (ORD)
- Federal Disaster Assistance Act
- Community Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Unfortunately, nowhere near enough money is available from anyone, or even all of these programs combined.

Special attention was given to the Safe Drinking Water Act. Under it, demonstration grants are available only for projects which either demonstrate new or improved technology for providing safe drinking water supplies, or demonstrate and investigate health implications in the reuse of waste waters for drinking purposes. Additionally, the latest draft of the Proposed Underground Injection Control Program regulations sets a new definition of underground injection, which

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removes EPA's regulatory power over landfill operations.

Section 1431 of the Safe Drinking Water Act gives the EPA Administrator emergency power to take such actions as he deems necessary to protect the health of persons who are dependent upon a public water supply which is or is likely to become contaminated. Such actions include issuance of orders, commencement of civil action for appropriate relief, restraining orders, and fines of not more than \$5,000 per day. At the present time, since guidelines governing the application of the provision are being considered by our Headquarters, no definite statement can be made regarding its applicability to the Llangollen landfill situation.

The possibility of Army Corps of Engineers involvement has probably the greatest potential for action of any alternative we have explored. Although a Congressionally authorized Corps project could commence only after a study of the problem - therefore probably not for a couple years - preliminary telephone contacts with several Corps staff have been encouraging. The Urban Studies Program of the Corps and its recent involvement in general water resources management studies give hope that an effective action plan can be formulated for the Llangollen landfill. Important details of our conversations are contained in a letter to the Allen, a copy of which is enclosed.

In conclusion, although we have not uncovered promising sources of money, we have broached with the Corps an avenue of potential action. The next step would appear to be for New Castle County 208 to contact the Philadelphia District Office of the Corps to explore this possibility. Recognizing the seriousness of this problem, the EPA will do all that it can to support New Castle 208 in this effort.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Blanco, Chief  
Water Planning Branch

Enclosures

cc: Robert Allen, EPA  
Paul Ambrose, EPA  
Michael Appar, DENRC  
James Menwaring, EPA  
Albert Montague, EPA ✓  
James Post, DENRC

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